*In a moment like that you are yourself quite numbed and don’t feel anything. You are completely stunned by the roaring of the cannons and rifles, as also by the screaming of the wounded, and you only briefly have a vague recollection. You become so indifferent too. I can remember that-*

Ekkehard Beinssen, Third Ypres

**Theodore Hooke**

Theodore (Dick) Hooke (My great grandfather) was enlisted into the Australian military forces in June 1940 with a registration number N75914. He was demobilized later that year. November 1941 he was re-mobilized, then de-mobilized again 1946. We do not know why he was delisted for the first time.

He travelled to New Guinea on the first trip of the hospital ship ‘Centaur’. Half his group went on the first trip (he was in that group) and half went on the second trip. The ship was torpedoed and sunk on the second trip just off Stradbroke Island and most of his colleagues died. He was at an Army Fieald Hospital at Salamaua in New Guinea.

Theodore (Dick) Hooke (27 years old), enlistment photos

**Ekkehard Beinssen**

Ekke Beinssen was an odd case; he enrolled for the German army when he was only seventeen, despite being born in Australia. His parents were both from Germany, and a couple of years before war broke out, the whole family had moved back to their home country. Ekke had had no choice in being enrolled to the German army, his father had wanted him to “experience the benefit of a German education,” And became one of the few soldiers who felt obliged to ‘fight on the other side.’

Ekke enrolled during 1916, and was sent to the front lines of the Third Ypres. During the war he wrote letters to his sister Gerda, the letters were in German, but used English slang and phrases. During his time at the Third Ypres, Ekke won a Iron Cross Second class (On the left).

When the war ended, he stayed in Germany for a time, but then moved to Australia during a small-scale German immigration in the 1920s.

During the Second World War, Ekkehard, his wife Irmhild and his four children were sent to an internment camp just outside of Rushworth, a camp exclusively for family groups, both Italians and Germans. Rushworth Prisoner of War camp (Camp no. 3), was closed in February 1946. Ekke and his family took a ship named Aquitania to Sydney, where they had another child, but lost her shortly after. Ekke died of lung failure, which was caused by Mustard gas during his time as a soldier.